USDA United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry | 180 Canfield Street Morgantown, WV 26505-3101

File Code: 3400
Date: October 19, 2009

Mr. Mel Poole
USDI National Park Service
Catoctin Mountain Park
Thurmont, MD 21788

Dear Mel:

On September 14 and 15, 2009, USDA Forest Service personnel conducted a gypsy moth egg mass survey at Catoctin Mountain Park. The purposes of the survey were to determine population densities, evaluate the efficacy of this year's treatments, assess the potential for defoliation and the need for treatment in 2010.

Gypsy moth survey plots were randomly selected based upon available host trees (oak species), size of sample area and uniformity between egg mass counts. At each sample point, a 1/40th acre fixed radius plot was established. The plots consisted of a tally of all the new (2009) egg masses observed on the overstory trees, understory vegetation, ground litter and duff.

The location of the survey plots along with the 2009 treatment areas are shown in Figure 1. I am pleased to report that no new egg masses were detected during the survey. Treatment will not be necessary at Catoctin Mountain Park in 2010.

Please contact me at 304-285-1555 if you have any questions regarding the gypsy moth egg survey.

Sincerely,

RODNEY L. WHITEMAN
Forester
Forest Health Protection

Enclosure

Cc: Sean Denniston, CATO
Bob Tatman, MDA
Tom Lupp, MDA
Jil Swearingen, CUE
Robert Lueckel, MFO

RLW/blm

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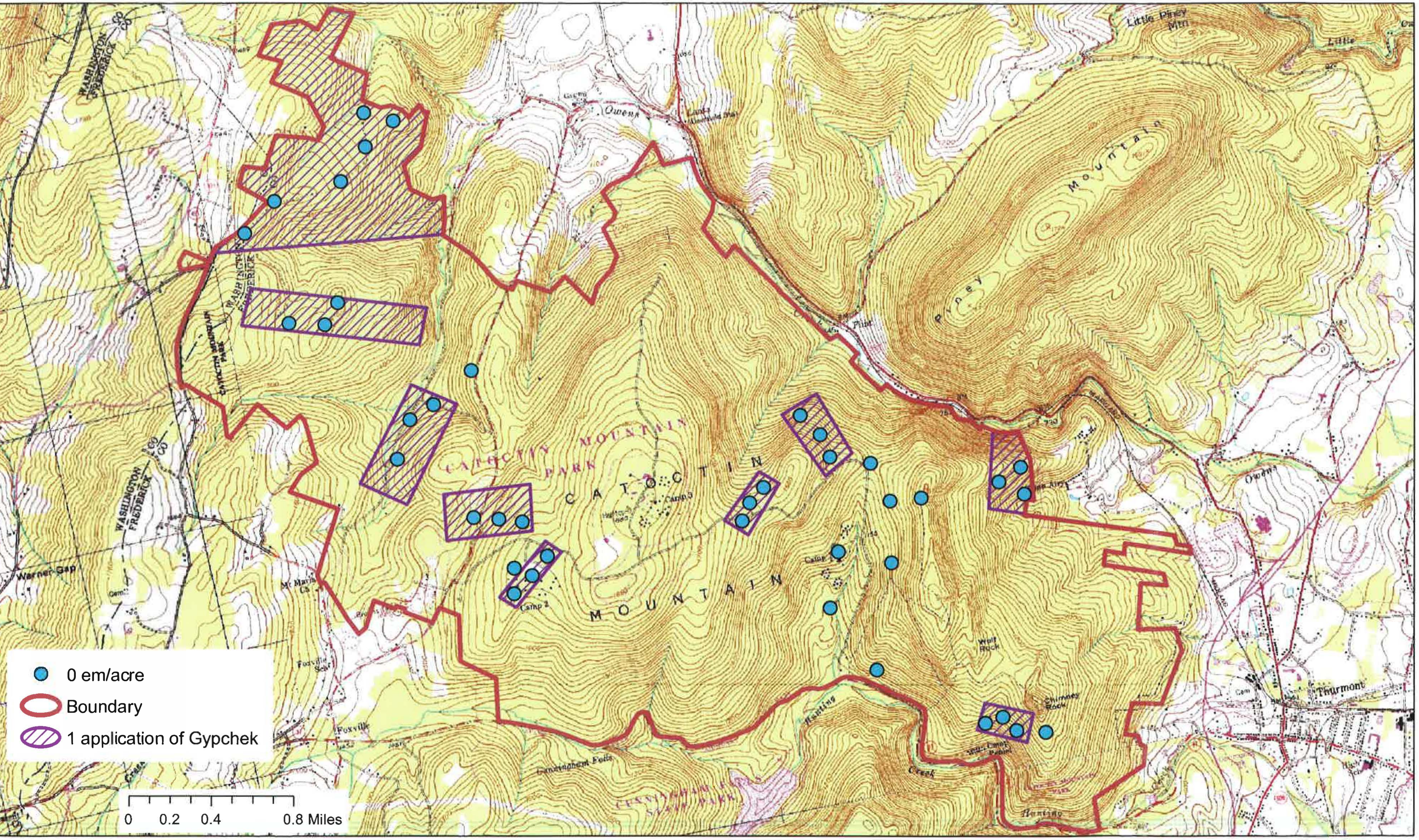
Figure 1. -- Location of the gypsy moth egg mass survey plots established on September 14-15, 2009, along with the 2009 gypsy moth suppression blocks.